GSGA41-R05
A Resolution to Alleviate Financial Burdens With Compulsory Internship/Externship

Summary: A resolution calling for the Graduate School to work with all department chairs and program directors (DGS/CGS) to create and maintain standardized policies around compulsory internships/externships, with an aim to alleviate the financial burden on compulsory internships/externships.

WHEREAS, many graduate students, who are in programs that require full-time internships for graduation, express that the tuition fees and mandatory fees pose a heavy financial burden on their academic life; and

WHEREAS, the credits associated with compulsory internships are program-dependent, where taking 1 credit for internship ($768 in-state tuition per credit; $1760 out-of-state tuition per credit) or 3 credits ($2,304 in-state tuition in total; $5118 out-of-state tuition in total) makes a significant difference to students’ finances; and

WHEREAS, graduate students who are taking a full-time internship are unable to take on a 20-hour graduate assistantship for tuition remission due to time and/or visa constraints; and

WHEREAS, salaries offered by the internship site vary from sites to sites. For example, according to the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers1, the average stipend for Psychology interns is $31,000; yet, some graduate student interns are making the minimum stipend ($15,000), which is even less than the salary of a Graduate Assistant at UMD; and

WHEREAS, graduate students who are in their internship year may also be finishing their dissertation and paying for their dissertation credits, ranging from around 0 to 6 credits per semester, which further raises the tuition cost; and

WHEREAS, international students and students who are doing internships outside of Maryland are experiencing heavier burden by paying out-of-state tuition, in which the percentage increase of 1 credit tuition from in-state to out-of-state tuition is 122.14% ($768 in-state tuition per credit; $1760 out-of-state tuition per credit); and

1 Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (https://www.appic.org/Directory/Directory-Statistics-Trainee-Stipends). As of August 2021, the mean full-time stipend for APPIC-member internship is $31,100 and the minimum full-time stipend is $15,000
WHEREAS, graduate students in compulsory internships/externships are on tight budgets and some are forced to obtain a student loan to pay for tuition and living expenses in order to get their degree.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Graduate Student Government calls upon the Graduate School in partnership with department chairs, directors of graduate study, chiefs of graduate study, and the Graduate Council to establish a standardized special in-state tuition rate for all students who are taking compulsory internships/externship regardless of their physical location and student statuses, so that graduate students can focus on their compulsory internships.

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Date and Time of Submission: October 1, 2021

Date of Presentation:

Action(s) Taken:

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Decision of GSG President

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Signature of GSG President

Date